

THE SURGERY OF PANCREATIC NEOPLASMS. By Rodney Smith, M.S.,
F.R.C.S. (Pp. vii + 157; figs. 111. 35s.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone.
1953.

This short monograph, awarded the 1951 "Jacksonian Prize" by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, epitomises modern thought on the Surgery of Pancreatic Neoplasms.

It is only during the past two decades that widespread surgical attention has been directed towards the radical cure of carcinoma of the pancreas, for long a field of the great masters, and the daring pioneers. Even they had few successes to record.

The modern surgical management of these difficult cases, beginning with Whipple's important contribution in 1935, are discussed at length. Finally a clear concise plan for the investigation of treatment of the various tumours emerges.

The early pages deal succinctly with the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the gland, including reproductions of the excellent anatomical diagrams of Falconer and Griffiths.

A careful survey of the history and clinical findings is followed by chapters on the special investigations of value. Surgical techniques are described in detail and beautifully illustrated by line drawings.

This beautifully produced book should be carefully studied by all surgeons who deal with the jaundiced patient. J. W. S. I.

MODERN TREATMENT YEARBOOK, 1953. Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt.,
K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., P.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A.,
F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. (Pp. viii + 348; figs. 88. 21s.). London: Ballière,
Tindall & Cox for the Medical Press. 1953.

This year book has been published regularly during the past eighteen years and this is evidence of its value to practitioners. It covers a very wide field and few general practitioners and fewer specialists could have cause to concern themselves directly with all the problems discussed. To select more or less at random from the thirty-eight chapters these range from the modern treatment of the rheumatic heart to the treatment of glioma retinae (retinoblastoma) by radium, from the modern treatment of hypospadias to modern views on the treatment of the menopause, and from the treatment of carcinoma of the bronchus to warts of the skin and their treatment. In some of the surgical and radio-therapeutic papers the detail given is unnecessary, but in general the articles are written to be of interest and value to the practitioner who first sees the case, and who will have to see the patient and perhaps his relatives on later occasions.

Articles are all of approximately the same length. Subjects such as the use and abuse of penicillin in general practice, the chemotherapy of pulmonary tuberculosis and the treatment of coronary thrombosis are at a phase when a more extended discussion might have been welcome. Sir Cecil Wakeley has assembled a team well fitted to represent British medical and surgical practice. It is a good omen of the soundness of British general practice that a year book covering such a wide field of interest is bought by practitioners year after year.

AIDS TO ORGANIC CHEMISTRY. By Ian Leslie, B.Sc., Ph.D. Fourth
edition. (Pp. viii + 144. 5s.). London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox. 1952.

No doubt many medical students are insufficiently trained in organic chemistry; in consequence they never understand the more chemical aspects of biochemistry. This is disastrous if they wish to become biochemists, but it is perhaps a less serious defect in their education as medical practitioners. This little book presents a brief account of the preparation, properties and reactions of those organic substances of importance to the biochemist. The average student attempting to work through it without other guidance will find it somewhat indigestible and few medical students will remember much of it a few months afterwards. Those whose course in biochemistry is strongly orientated to organic chemistry may find it useful for revision.